

Hepatitis C: What You Need to Know PSA (:60)

Testing baby boomers for hepatitis C saves lives. Hepatitis C is a serious viral infection that can cause liver damage and even liver cancer, if left untreated. About three quarters of people who have it don't know they're infected.

Anyone can get hepatitis C, but baby boomers are five times more likely to have it. Many people don't know how or when they were infected. Once infected, nearly eight in 10 people will have hepatitis C for life.

CDC recommends anyone born from 1945 through 1965 get tested. A blood test is the only way to know if you've ever been infected. If it's positive, you'll need a follow-up test to see if you're still infected. Without it, you can't get the care you need. Successful treatment can get rid of the virus from the body and help prevent further damage. So get tested. It *could* save your life!

To learn more, visit cdc.gov/vitalsigns.